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Letter dated 16 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write on behalf of the representatives of the Spanish-speaking Member States to the United Nations in order to transmit herewith the charter of the Group of Friends of Spanish at the United Nations, established on 16 September 2013 for the purposes declared therein (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 120.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Charter of the Group of Friends of Spanish at the United Nations

The representatives of the Spanish-speaking Member States to the United Nations,

Convinced of the central role of languages in promoting understanding among peoples, tolerance and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity,

Committed to respect for multilingualism as a guiding principle of all United Nations activities, with a view to spreading its message of peace among the peoples of the world in their own languages,

Committed also to respect for the principle of parity in the use of the six official languages of the United Nations, equitably and without discrimination,

Encouraged by the growing use of Spanish as a universal language and, as such, as a vehicle for peace, respect for human rights and social and economic development among peoples that speak that language,

Recalling that Spanish is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and a working language of the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees, of the Security Council and of the Economic and Social Council,

Convinced that the use and spread of the Spanish language contribute to the ideals, purposes and principles of the Organization,

Encouraged, in particular, by the growing interest of Spanish-speaking peoples in the work of the United Nations, which has been having an impact on the activities of the Organization through increased and ongoing consultations, interactions and demands on the part of the Spanish-speaking public worldwide,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and a group of friends encompassing the Spanish-speaking countries will be of benefit to the ideals, purposes and principles of the United Nations and the general welfare of peoples,

Expressing the desire to strengthen, develop and reinforce their existing ties in the political, economic, social and cultural fields,

1. *Decide* to establish the "Group of Friends of Spanish" within the context of the United Nations, with a mandate based upon the aforementioned aims;

2. *Authorize* the Group of Friends of Spanish to coordinate and carry out activities to promote the use and spread of the Spanish language in the work of the United Nations, including the coordination of a common voice in those efforts, bearing in mind the purposes for which that mandate was conferred;

3. *Also authorize* the Group of Friends of Spanish, to that end, to hold regular meetings, including with the relevant authorities of the Secretariat and other United Nations organs, as well as with other language groups within the United Nations;

4. *Invite* other Member States that share the values and objectives set forth in this charter to become observers of the Group of Friends of Spanish, with a view to contributing to the aims on which its mandate is based.

New York, 16 September 2013

Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations